

## ABSTRACT

A system for providing basic system control functions upon failure of all  
5 management processors in a computer system. During normal system operation, a  
plurality of management processors monitor system sensors that detect system  
power, temperature, and cooling fan status, and make necessary adjustments. Each  
management processor normally provides an output signal indicating that it is  
operating properly. A high-availability controller monitors each of these signals to  
10 verify that there is at least one operating management processor. When none of the  
processors indicate that they are operating properly, the high-availability controller  
monitors the system sensors and updates system indicators. If a problem develops,  
such as failure of a power supply or a potentially dangerous increase in temperature,  
the high-availability controller sequentially powers down the appropriate equipment  
15 to protect the system from damage.